

BLESSING OF THE PETS . . .

Pets of all shapes and sizes lined up at Christ Episcopal Church for the Blessing of the Animals event celebrating the Feast Day of St. Francis.

As the pets arrive, they are given a card to fill out the name of the pet or pets. Each person brings their loved pets forward at the time of blessing. This service goes with the mood of the animals, so it may take longer at times. We all know that not all the animals are patient, not even for the most eloquent of preachers. After the service, the pet owners are given treats that the church members prepared in advance. We have had all kinds of special treats for our animals, from gourmet snacks to donated treats from local vets.

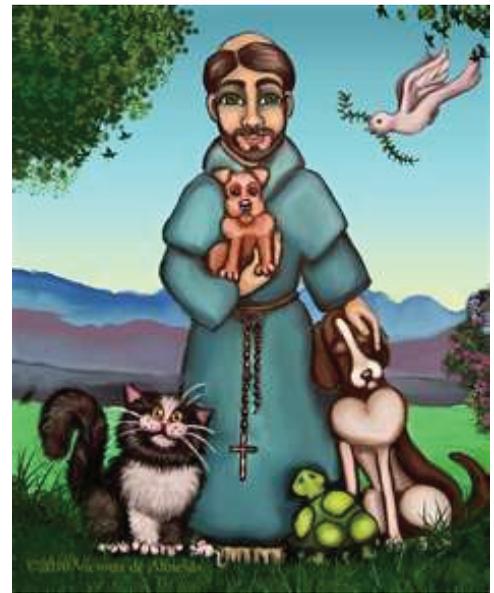
The usual turnout is dogs & cats, but we've had goats too. Each are blessed (with the sign of the cross) both animal and owner.

Someone is always in charge of getting an article with pictures to the local newspaper.

At the end of the service we close with the following prayer

THE BLESSING PRAYER *for all to recite goes as follows:*

Most high, almighty Lord, our Creator, yours are the praise, the glory, the honour and all blessings! To you alone do all things belong. Be praised for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world. May we think of you and thank you when we play with and care for our pets. Be praised for making us so happy to have our pets and to have them to play with. We ask you, Lord, that we may be good to our pets always, so that they may be happy also. Help us always to take care of them so that they will be healthy. O God, your world is wonderful. May we all come into your even greater world of the kingdom of heaven where we shall see even more wonderful things and where we shall live and love for ever. This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our blessing. Amen.



**Contact us to find out when the next one will be!
You can bring just about any animal, for example:
Birds and rats, fish, gerbils, snakes, lizards, etc.**